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frequent—though not invariable—under these conditions as to point strongly to a causal connection. This is indicated by the number of cases in which the analgesia appears at the inception of motor-inco-ordination.

Harvard.

J. R. ANGELL.

H. NOTHNAGEL, *Schmerzhafte Empfindungen bei Herzerkrankungen*, Zeit. f. Klinische Medecin, 1891, ss. 209.

This article is mainly of value to the physician who would use the painful sensations in the cardial regions for the purpose of diagnosing heart affections in cases where the ordinary physical examination fails to reveal the cause of the trouble, and where, at the same time, there seems to be no functional nervous disorder which would account for these sensations by referring them to a "subjective" origin. Dr. Nothnagel concludes that the muscles of the heart are less concerned in the production of these sensations than the general circulatory system, but thinks that, further than this, it is impossible to reach any precise and satisfactory conclusions, owing to the complicated nature of the cardial nervous system. The cutaneous hyperalgesia and neuralgia found in some cases, he refers to as eccentric spreadings from the main seat of the disease such as we often find in diseases of the vital organs.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

CORRE, *Crime et Suicide*, Paris, 1891.

After having in another work studied the criminal from the natural history and medical point of view, the author proposes now to examine the genetic conditions of antisocial impulsiveness. The book consists in a general etiology of crime completed by a parallel etiology of suicide. As crime varies according to time and place, it is not definable from the act, nor from an antithesis to morality, which is everywhere conventional. The variability of sentiments is precisely the cause of the different interpretations given to correlative or derived actions. The opinion of the majority creates morality and laws. Natural crime is a conventional offense to the average opinion of each collectively. The characteristic of criminals resides in non-conformance to the social obligation of the moment. Man possesses just enough free will to regulate the modes of his collective relations under the form of a contract of necessity. There is no more responsibility in the absolute sense of the word than there is absolute liberty. Under the influence of alcoholism and of social perturbations, crime and insanity present a parallel evolution; the same causes which prepare or determine one affect the other. These diverse forms of aberrant or antisocial impulsiveness spring from the same solicitations. As one observes collective crimes under imitation and suggestion by example (crowds), so he also discovers collective insanity or demoniacal epidemics. It is true that degeneracy of all forms furnishes a large proportion of criminals; yet there is a sufficiently frequent manifestation of impulsivity in individuals of feeble mind or feeble moral resistance. The criminal is not a retrogression, but he is incomplete in evolution. The author does not admit a criminal type in the anthropological sense, but there are criminal types in the psychological sense; one, which comprehends the majority of criminals and includes a part of the criminals by occasion, is latent. The passionate type comprises those who are not degraded, but who are suddenly surprised by a criminal solicitation in a moment of exceptional need. There is another type including subjects of an unstable character, in whom reflection, after the first omission, is not sufficient to hinder a second fault; they are without hereditary taint, their criminality is acquired. A third type consists of those

degenerated through vicious habits, led astray by prostitution, debauched by temperament or by satiety of pleasure, the alcoholics, the morphimaniacs, etc.; under the influence of a special habit a criminal habit is born and developed. The fourth and last type is hereditary, sometimes susceptible of being referred to atavism, not of an ethnic type, but rather pathological, degenerative or teratological.

The suppression of a unity, or its reduction by lessening its conditions of resistance is a crime, from the social point of view. But is it a crime when it is the suppression of one's own proper person, or suicide? To prefer to die, rather than live in a slow degradation under the chains of misery, does not merit reproach but pity, and in some cases admiration. The suicides are the discontented; they do not oppose their surroundings, they simply abandon an environment which they believe themselves unable to inhabit. They do not differ much from those who, disgusted with the world, without knowing the world, at the age of virility, shut themselves in cloisters, protesting thus against the form of general society. Crime and suicide are two acts equally prejudicial to collective interests. They represent two modes of antisocial impulsiveness, which cannot be regarded as equivalents, although they arise from similar psychical aberrations and from conditions more or less analogous. Suicide has more alliance with insanity than crime has. Degenerative habits, as alcoholism, morphimania and debauch are the most intensive causes of attacks against others and against one's self. Alcoholism conducts men to suicide or to crime, according to their characters.

Washington, D. C.

ARTHUR MACDONALD

LYDSTON AND TALBOT, *Studies of criminals*.—Alienist and Neurologist, 1891, XIII. 556.

These deal with the "degeneracy of cranial and maxillary development in the criminal class," and are accompanied by illustrations of criminal skulls and histories typical of the physical degeneracy of the criminal. They are peculiarly valuable and interesting for comparison with the studies of Lombroso and other European criminologists. Talbot investigated a very large number of cases of habituals and murderers among the prisoners in the Joliet penitentiary. The histories and descriptions of these are given in detail, besides the results of examinations of the jaws and teeth of 477 criminal subjects (468 males, 9 females). Lydston presents also the results of his studies of the skulls of criminals and social outcasts of various nationalities and races.

The more pronounced criminal types are found amongst the imported criminals. Simplicity of gyres in the brain seems indicative of degeneracy. The most striking features of the criminal skull, as seen in American prisons, are the tendencies to brachycephalism and sub-microcephalism and the great frequency of cranial asymmetry. The direction of the degeneracy is modified by racial characteristics. The dolichocephalic type, when degenerated, becomes in general more dolichocephalic. A striking feature of the degenerate skull, as illustrated by many skulls in the habitual criminal class, is its peculiar "twisted" conformation. Alcohol is the touch-stone, the crucial lymph, that brings out the inherent infection of madness, crime, or bestiality. Heredity is the latent power and alcohol the potential energy that drives the arrow to the mark. Left-handedness is rare amongst American and foreign-American criminals. One per cent. only of the 400 criminals in the Joliet penitentiary were found to be left-handed, and two per cent. in the New York city prison.

It is impossible to look over the descriptions of these criminals without noting the continual occurrence of facial and cranial asymmetries. The physical degeneracy and often the bad heredity of the subjects are